THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The World Bank has, in one of its reports, listed several impediments to private investment in the Indian Power Sector like poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards, lack of competitive bidding in the initial stages etc.

Competitive Bidding has been made mandatory with effect from 18.2.1995 for award of power projects in the private sector. Recognising the need of a sound financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as essential for private investment, the time bound reforms and restructuring of SEBs is high on the agenda of the Government as reflected in the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power.

[English]

Rakesh Mohan Committee

806. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been recommended by the Rakesh Mohan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in setting up of an Independent Power Regulatory Commission and the response and action initiated by the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the proper implementation of the Common Minimum National Action Plan in power sector by the State Governments and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted The India Infrastructure Report - Policy imperatives for growth and welfare to the Government of India on 22.6.1996. This report has recommended policy reforms which can help in greater commercialisation of infrastructure like urban development, power, telecommunications, roads, industrial parks and ports through increase in the domestic savings rate, gearing up of the capital markets, setting up of a regulatory framework and Infrastructure Finance Development Corporation (IFDC), Public Private Partnerships (PPP) etc..

(c) and (d) As a result of the Chief Ministers' Conference on 16th October and 3rd December, 1996, a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power has been formulated which, inter-alia, lays down the setting up of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. This Action Plan has been circulated to all the State Governments for Initiating action on the same. Orissa has already set up the State Electricity Regulatory Commission and the States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have initiated action in this regard.

House Building Advance

807. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revise the rules pertaining to House Building Advance being given to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether the Central Government employees are allowed to take second loan from the office on payment of the first loan;

(c) the other facilities proposed to be extended to the Government employees for building houses of their own;

(d) whether Government propose to reduce the rate of interest; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Srisailam Left Bank Canal Power Project

808. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has scraped the Srisailam Left Bank Canal Power Project;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the project was taken up with loan assistance of 26,101 million Yen from the overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan;

(d) the actual estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(e) the reasons for delay in completing the project within the stipulated schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (e) The Srisailam Left Bank Power House (6x150 MW) in Andhra Pradesh is being executed by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan of 48,668 million Yen. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs.2324.55 crores (1996 price level), out of which an expenditure of Rs.1123.63 crores has been incurred on the project upto December, 1996.

The project was originally scheduled for completion by December, 1994 but has been delayed due to heavy